

DOCKET NO.: THOM-0014
Application No.: 09/857,735
Office Action Dated: October 7, 2002

PATENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Sub D17
CL 17
Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, in which the tag is positioned substantially centrally of the said margin of the bag.

Claim 3 (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, in which the tag is folded to lie within the contour of the bag sides until withdrawn.

Claim 4 (canceled)

4
Claim ~~5~~⁴ (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, in which the inside surfaces of the outside legs of the tag are in peel seal engagement with the outside surfaces of the inside legs of the tag in said M-shaped configuration.

5
Claim ~~6~~⁵ (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, in which only those parts of the outside legs of the tag extending beyond the inside legs are sealed to the bag sides.

6
Claim ~~7~~⁶ (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, in which the tag is provided with a line of weakness along the junction of the inside legs of the tag.

7
Claim ~~8~~⁷ (original): A bag according to claim ~~7~~⁴, in which the line of weakness comprises a row of perforations.

8
Claim ~~9~~⁸ (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, in which the tag is made of a laminated material.

9
Claim ~~10~~⁹ (original): A bag according to claim ~~9~~⁸, in which the laminated material comprises at least three layers.

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¹⁰
0 ~~Claim 11 (original)~~: A bag according to claim ~~10~~⁹, in which the laminated material comprises four layers, a first layer of a material which is sealable to a plastics film, a second layer of a relatively strong material, a third layer which has heat insulating properties and a fourth layer of peel seal material.

¹¹
Claim ~~12~~ (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~26~~¹, which has a reclosable zipper and two seals extending parallel to the said margin, one of which is a reclosable zipper seal.

¹²
0 ~~Claim 13 (original)~~: A bag according to claim ~~12~~¹¹, in which the reclosable zipper seal is on the inside in relation to the other seal, and the tag is located within both seals.

¹³
Claim ~~14~~ (previously amended): A bag according to claim ~~12~~¹¹, in which the zipper has marginal flanges extending from interengagable male and female closure members, and the tag is sealed to inside surfaces of flanges extending from the closure members towards the mouth of the bag.

Claim 15 (canceled)

¹⁵
0 ~~Claim 16 (previously amended)~~: A method according to claim ~~27~~¹⁴, which includes sealing the tag to flanges of a reclosable zipper having interengageable male and female closure members, sealing the zipper and tag to a host material which is to form the sides of the bag, forming the bag, and creating a second seal parallel to said margin, on the side of the zipper which is closer to the mouth of the bag, with the tag extending through the second seal.

¹⁶
Claim ~~17~~ (previously amended): A method according to claim ~~27~~¹⁴, which includes sealing the tag to a host material which is to form the sides of the bag, forming the bag, and creating the at least one seal parallel to said margin with the tag extending through the at least one seal.

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¹⁷
Claim ~~18~~ (previously amended): A method according to claim ~~27~~¹⁴, which includes folding a length of laminated material into a generally M-shaped configuration in cross-section, and cutting off a section of the folded material to form the tag.

¹⁸
Claim ~~19~~ (original): A method according to claim ~~18~~¹⁷, which includes providing a line of weakness along the junction of the inside legs of the tag.

¹⁹
Claim ~~20~~ (previously amended): A method according to claim ~~17~~¹⁴, in which the tag is located on the host material so that the tag lies within the contour of the bag sides when the bag is completed and sealed.

²⁰
Claim ~~21~~ (currently amended): Tag material comprising an elongate strip comprising a first layer having an outside surface suitable to be sealed to a web of plastics material and a second layer having an outside surface having peel-seal properties, wherein the strip is folded about its longitudinal axis into a generally M-shaped configuration with two outer legs and two inner legs that form an inner tuck, wherein the first layer is on the outside of the M-shaped configuration and with the outer legs of the folded strip extend extending beyond the tuck.

²¹
Claim ~~22~~ (original): Tag material according to claim ~~21~~²⁰, in which a line of weakness is provided along the length of the strip so as to be located at the apex of the tuck when folded.

²²
Claim ~~23~~ (original): Tag material according to claim ~~22~~²¹, in which the line of weakness comprises a row of perforations through the strip.

²³
Claim ~~24~~ (previously amended): Tag material according to claim ~~21~~²⁰, in which the strip also includes a layer of strengthening material between the first and second layers.

²⁴
Claim ~~25~~ (previously amended): Tag material according to claim ~~21~~²⁰, in which the strip also includes a layer of heat insulating material between the first and second layers.

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Claim 26 (previously added): A plastic bag comprising:

a pair of sides defining an openable mouth along one margin of the sides;
at least one seal extending parallel to said margin; and
a tag within the length of said at least one seal, in which the tag is folded in a generally M-shaped configuration in cross-section to define two outside legs and two inside legs located between the outside legs, with outside surfaces of the outside legs of the tag being sealed to the bag sides at said at least one seal, whereby the inside legs of the tag can be manually withdrawn from between the outside legs and the outside legs can be separated to permit access to the interior of the bag.

Claim 27 (previously added): A method of manufacturing a plastics bag having a pair of sides defining an openable mouth, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one seal extending parallel to a margin of the bag which defines said openable mouth; and

incorporating within the length of said at least one seal a tag which is folded in a generally M-shaped configuration in cross-section to define two outside legs and two inside legs located between the outside legs, with surfaces of the outside legs of the tag being sealed to the bag sides at said at least one seal, whereby the inside legs of the tag can be manually withdrawn from between the outside legs and the outside legs can be separated to permit access to the interior of the bag.